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BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 23 JUNE 1993.

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1. HAITI: ARMY COMMANDER MANEUVERING ON TALKS [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

1. HAITI: ARMY COMMANDER MANEUVERING ON TALKS [REDACTED]

ARMY COMMANDER CEDRAS [REDACTED]
IS WILLING TO MEET PRESIDENT ARISTIDE IN A NEUTRAL LOCATION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MANY SOLDIERS SUPPORT NEW TALKS BETWEEN CEDRAS AND ARISTIDE AS A MEANS OF PREEMPTING THE SANCTIONS, BUT THEY CONTINUE TO REGARD ARISTIDE'S RETURN AS INCONCEIVABLE AND PREDICT THAT HE WOULD NOT SURVIVE LONG WITHOUT THE PROTECTION OF A FOREIGN ARMED FORCE. EARLIER, ARISTIDE'S REPRESENTATIVES ANNOUNCED THAT A SETTLEMENT MUST INCLUDE RESIGNATION OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP AND THE PRESIDENT'S PROMPT RETURN. POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS, IN ANTICIPATION OF UN SANCTIONS SET TO TAKE EFFECT TODAY, [REDACTED] HAS TOLD OIL DISTRIBUTORS TO ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE A 90-DAY SUPPLY OF GASOLINE ON HAND. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: CEDRAS IS TRYING TO APPEASE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BUT PROBABLY DOES NOT INTEND TO RESIGN OR TO SET A DATE FOR ARISTIDE'S RETURN. HIS PREFERENCE FOR A NEUTRAL MEETING SITE ALSO IS DESIGNED TO BLUNT CRITICISM FROM HARDLINERS IN THE MILITARY AND THE LEGISLATURE THAT HE IS CAPITULATING TO WASHINGTON, THE UN, AND ARISTIDE. IF DIRECT TALKS OCCUR, CEDRAS IS LIKELY TO ARGUE THAT THIS JUSTIFIES ENDING THE EMBARGO, BUT HE ALSO WILL TRY TO JUSTIFY THE COUP BY ATTACKING ARISTIDE AS UNDEMOCRATIC. AS PRESSURE FROM THE UN SANCTIONS MOUNTS, SOME FRUSTRATED MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY MAY MOVE TO OUST CEDRAS. [REDACTED]

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